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COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

Letter dated 29 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to refer to the letter addressed to you dated 15 May 1998 (A/52/904-S/1998/398) from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand, the Right Honourable Don McKinnon, concerning the conduct of nuclear tests by India.

I have been requested by my Government to transmit to you the attached statement of 29 May 1998 from the Prime Minister of New Zealand, the Right Honourable Jenny Shipley, concerning the conduct of nuclear tests by Pakistan.

The Government of New Zealand has called upon the Governments of both India and Pakistan to adhere unconditionally to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as an official document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly under agenda item 64.

(Signed) Michael J. POWLES
Permanent Representative

98-15134 (E) 010698

ANNEX

Press release dated 29 May 1998

PRIME MINISTER CONDEMNS NUCLEAR TESTS BY PAKISTAN

Prime Minister Jenny Shipley today condemned Pakistan's nuclear tests.

"New Zealand denounces these tests unequivocally. We knew that Pakistan was under great provocation from the tests already conducted by India, but this response will only aggravate a tense situation.

"In public statements, and in letters sent recently by me and Don McKinnon to our Pakistan counterparts, we called on Pakistan to exercise restraint. I am therefore deeply disappointed that they have now taken this step.

"New Zealand will be making clear to Pakistan, as we did to India, that these actions are totally unacceptable.

"We will also be consulting other Governments about what steps the international community can take to defuse this potentially dangerous situation.

"New Zealand will once again be strongly supporting all efforts in the United Nations and other multilateral bodies to try to avert a nuclear arms race in South Asia, and to maintain the international norm against nuclear testing," the Prime Minister concluded.